

**On being
a farm wife
-And other
hazards

Joyce Bupp**

Dear Santa,
Well hello old friend - it seems so long since we last heard from you. Been busy? I should have written sooner, but hope this letter reaches your workshop in time.
I'll get right to the point.
My supply of socks and slippers is adequate, dear Santa, and I just bought a pair of warm, wooly mittens - on sale. The old bicycle is rusty, but serviceable, except for the day we blew out the tire with the air compressor, and frankly, I don't fit too well into shiny, new red wagons.
There's even an abundant supply of my familiar, hauntingly feminine fragrances: Cow Barn No. 1, and Essence of Wood Smoke.
Actually, Santa, my list of needs this year is a bit more complicated. I hope it doesn't present too much of a problem.
First, a batch of time would come in awfully handy. There just never seems to be enough of that commodity to stretch to everywhere I need it. Just a little extra to stash away for walks across the fields, chat with

neighbors, time to write a letter or two, and to do more things with the children, would be so useful. If you could spare just a smudgeon, I'd be ever so grateful.
And might you have a spare package of patience lying somewhere in the corner of your workshop? Mine is getting pretty threadbare these days. Maybe its because I've arrived at that combination of approaching middle age and teenagers.
Please, a giant, economy size of patience; and don't feel obligated to wrap it.
I'm also hoping to find a bag of humor hidden under the tree. It would go a long way on those days when the heifers plunder the fence, the water pump rolls over and plays dead, or the barn floor supports collapse under a full mow of hay.
Could you tuck into my stocking an atomizer of appreciation for the world around me? That would be so handy for seeing the sunrise during the early morning off-to-school madhouse, the fluffy white clouds against an azure sky that I

LANCASTER — How safe is that cute little toy dog with the pull string or the red bicycle that Johnny will grow into? They may seem harmless but actually may be a threat to your child's safety, says Billie H. Frazier, human development specialist for the Maryland Extension.
The U.S. Public Health Service says many children are injured each year in toy-related accidents. Frazier comments it is the responsibility of each parent to

so often miss dashing from barn to house to car, and to remember to rejoice in the love and caring of family and friends.
And finally, Santa, do you happen to have a little item called a "lip button"? They must make them somewhere because I remember my Mom telling me long ago on occasion to "button my lip."
I still need one, especially when I find myself yelling "If I have to tell you to pick up your clothes one more time I'll scream" or when that "I told you so" slips out again.
Thanks for your consideration Santa. Now bundle up snugly against the cold, and don't stay out too late on Christmas Eve.

Love,
A Farm Wife

Think toy safety

choose their children's toys carefully.
Frazier stresses, the age, size, strength, maturity and skill of the child must be considered before buying a toy. She adds, a toy which is safe for one child may be dangerous in the hands of another unsupervised and less skilled younger brother or sister.
Frazier recommends the following guidelines when purchasing your children's toys:
—Avoid toys that have sharp points or edges.
—Make sure that plastic non-breakable material is used in windows of toy trucks, cars and airplanes.
—Avoid toys that are of poor construction.
—Avoid toys that have detachable parts, such as button eyes. Dolls with embroidered features are safer.
—Check fabrics for flame retardant labels. Also look for "washable" and "hygienic materials" labels.
—Choose only toys appropriate for the child's age and development. Many toy manufacturers are putting age group labels on their products.
—Certain toys should be bought for older children only. These toys include chemistry sets and elec-

trically operated items.
—Avoid toys that make excessive noise. Even a cap gun beside the ear can cause damage.
Toys for toddlers should be chosen with extra care, advises Frazier. Parents need to check toys for infants and very small children on these points.
Make sure it:-
—Is too large to be swallowed.
—Does not have detachable small parts.
—Is not easily broken into small pieces or leave jagged edges.
—Does not have sharp edges or points.
—Has not been put together with straight pins, sharp wire, or nails that can easily be pulled out.
—Is not made of glass or brittle plastic.
—Is labeled "non-toxic."
—Does not have parts that pinch fingers and toes or catch hair.
—Does not have a cord or string over 12 inches in length.
—Avoid painted toys for children who put things in their mouths.
Toy safety does not end with the final purchase. Children should be taught the proper use of their new toys.
Frazier comments, "There is no substitute for parental interest and supervision. Any toy can be dangerous, especially if it is misused."

HAVING SOIL PROBLEMS?

Here's A Timely Tip...

Apply lime on frozen ground

Lime can be applied almost anytime, however winter months are ideal, because the ground is firm and the freezing and thawing action helps to disseminate the lime in the soil



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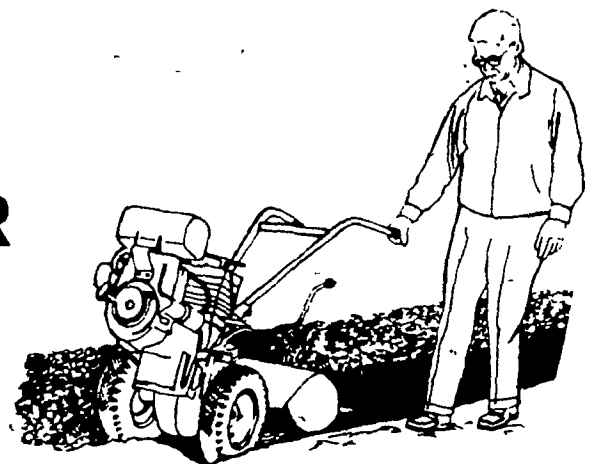
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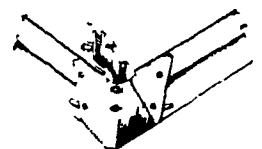
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